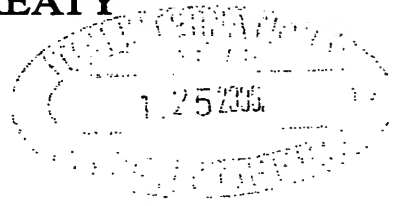


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY



To:
ITO, Tadahiko

32nd Floor, Yebisu Garden Place
Tower, 20-3, Ebisu
4-chome, Shibuya -ku, Tokyo
1506032 Japan

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 24.01.2006	
Applicant's or agent's file reference R05181PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/JP2005/018601	International filing date (day/month/year) 03.10.2005
Priority date (day/month/year) 27.10.2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC Int.Cl. <i>G11B7/0045 (2006.01), G11B7/007 (2006.01), G11B7/125 (2006.01)</i>	
Applicant RICOH COMPANY, LTD.	

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Date of completion of this opinion 16.01.2006	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan	Authorized officer Hiroyuki Yuzuriha Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3551

5D 3046

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/018601

Box No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/018601

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-26	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-26	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-26	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations:

D1:JP 10-283688 A (Nikon Corporation) 1998.10.23, paragraph 0011, 0023-0025, figure 6 & EP 0905685 A

D2:JP 2004-295940 A (Ricoh Company, Ltd.) 2004.10.21, paragraph 0012, 0068 & US 2005/0025013 A

D3:JP 8-124159 A (Teac Corporation) 1996.05.17, paragraph 0006 (Family: none)

D4:JP 9-330519 A (Hitachi, Ltd.) 1997.12.22, paragraph 0014 & US 5974021 A

The subject matter of claim 1 and 14 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1 (see paragraph 0011, 0023) cited in the ISR and D2 cited in the same.

The subject matter of claim 2 and 15 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1 cited in the ISR and D2 (see paragraph 0012, 0068) cited in the same.

The subject matter of claim 3 and 16 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1, D2 and D3 cited in the ISR, because the claim 3 relates to [a running trial writing process] and such process appears to be known from D3 (see paragraph 0006).

The subject matter of claim 4, 6, 17 and 19 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1 (see paragraph 0024) cited in the ISR and D2 cited in the same.

The subject matter of claim 5, 10, 18 and 23 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1 (see figure 6) cited in the ISR and D2 cited in the same.

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: V. 2.

The subject matter of claim 7, 8, 20, 21 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1 cited in the ISR and D4 (see paragraph 0014) cited in the same.

The subject matter of claim 9 and 22 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1 (see paragraph 0011) cited in the ISR and D2 (see paragraph 0012, 0068) cited in the same.

The subject matter of claim 11 and 24 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1 (see paragraph 0011, 0023, figure 6) cited in the ISR and D2 cited in the same.

The subject matter of claim 12 and 25 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1 (see paragraph 0025) cited in the ISR and D2 cited in the same.

The subject matter of claim 13 and 26 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D1 cited in the ISR and D2 (see paragraph 0012, 0068) cited in the same.